

day of heightened fiscal responsibility, it is outrageous that this Government continues to keep military personnel on its payrolls after they have been convicted of crimes. My constituents and I feel that such irresponsible practices must be stopped. This policy was originally adopted to finance the costs of shipping families of convicted criminals back to civilization during the development of the Old West. However, times have changed and such an outdated policy should be rectified. This Government should not be paying out funds designed to solve problems that existed 120 years ago.

Certainly today no civilian firm would continue to keep on its payrolls convicted rapists and murderers. In summary, I urge my colleagues to sponsor and support this worthwhile bill to correct an existing anomaly in our Government's policy.

TRIBUTE TO MALCOLM BENNETT

HON. JULIAN C. DIXON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 19, 1995

Mr. DIXON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the accomplishments of Malcolm N. Bennett, outgoing president of the Southwest Los Angeles Board of Realtors, the only African-American board of realtors in Los Angeles. His contributions to the business community have been matched by his commitment to bettering the lives of the less fortunate in Los Angeles.

In addition to being president and founder of International Realty & Investments, one of the largest minority-owned property management firms in the city, Mr. Bennett is also co-owner of one of the largest minority-owned glass installation companies, International Glass Co. Mr. Bennett's knowledge in the real estate field has allowed him to serve as State court receiver for several of the largest banks in California and his activities in the community have received recognition at the State and local level.

Mr. Bennett has also been active in efforts to better the lives of those with special needs. He has taken an active role as a member of the board of directors of the South Central Los Angeles Regional Center for the Disabled, working on special projects and programs designed for individuals with special needs. Mr. Bennett has also served as board member for the Cripple Children's Society, devoting his time and energy to organizing their annual walk-a-thon. Mr. Bennett is president and founder of the Minority Apartment Owners Association, and has led the organization's efforts to reach out to elderly and confined residents in the community.

Malcolm Bennett's success as a leader in the real estate industry in Los Angeles, and his willingness to lend his efforts on behalf of community members in need, deserve our recognition and praise. I am pleased to call attention to Malcolm's accomplishments and his tenure as president of the Southwest Los Angeles Board of Realtors, and ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating him on his contributions to the community.

TRIBUTE TO THE LATE LEE ECHOLS

HON. DUNCAN HUNTER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 19, 1995

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, Lee Echols, who served our country in a number of hazardous positions, died recently at age 87 at a hospital near his home in Bonita, CA. His life proved that truth is indeed stranger than fiction, since no fiction has ever emerged that combined Lee's true life adventures which included service in the OSS; the CIA; special Customs agent for undercover narcotics work; a Navy officer in New York City and special State Department operative in Guatemala, Bolivia, Uruguay, Mexico, and the Dominican Republic.

Along the way, Lee became a member of the U.S. Treasury Pistol Team and won the National Pistol Championship in 1941 at the Camp Perry Shoot. He served as western field director for the National Rifle Association for several years. After retirement from 38 years of government service, Lee helped organize the Association of Former Intelligence Officers, which had been started by his old friend, Dave Phillips, who had been Chief of the western hemisphere section of the CIA. Lee became California State chairman of AFIO.

"Hilarious High Jinks & Dangerous Assignments," the autobiography of Lee Echols, was published in 1990, and recounts his amazing career as well as outlining some of the many practical jokes he and his associates played on each other. In addition to the autobiography, Lee wrote a book, "Dead Aim" about the various shooting matches in which he participated over the years, a book of fiction, and numerous magazines articles.

In his adventuresome career, Lee encountered various smugglers, dealers in narcotics, Communists, revolutionaries, corrupt officials of Latin American countries and Mexico, and others who would have killed him had they discovered his true identity. The amazing thing is that he could operate undercover for our Government for many years and still survive.

One factor that sustained him was his great sense of humor, which led him to organize and take part in various hoaxes of his fellow workers, and for that matter, anyone who came along. It was this facet of Lee's life that attracted men of action to him, including the famous Marine general, Hollands M. "Howlin' Mad" Smith. At one of the international pistol shoots, Lee staged a scene where he appeared to have been accidentally shot and killed by another contestant.

In the Dominican Republic, where he worked undercover for our State Department, he obtained information from the revolutionaries that was of great help in protecting American dependents until the United States Government could send in the 82d Airborne and the Marines to evacuate them to United States ships. He also later ran a school for Spanish-speaking countries interested in training efficient national security forces.

His life story, "Hilarious High Jinks & Dangerous Assignments" not only tells an incredible true story of his life, but also gives an idea of the efficiency of our undercover operations, of the CIA, the OSS, Customs, and other Government agencies. Having grown up in

Calexico, in Imperial County, and worked 10 years for Customs along the border, Lee spoke Spanish fluently and also understood how to get along with our neighbors to the south.

His work lives on in the lives of the young men, Americans and those from Latin America, whom he trained in law enforcement and respect for democracy. Like many others who have helped build America, Lee was a product of his times and his environment, and an inspiration to all who knew him.

U.S. CONGRESS AND GERMAN PARLIAMENT CONDUCT ANNUAL EXCHANGE

HON. CHARLES W. STENHOLM

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 19, 1995

Mr. STENHOLM. Mr. Speaker, since 1983, the United States Congress and the German Parliament, the Bundestag, have conducted an annual exchange program for staff members from both countries. The program gives professional staff the opportunity to observe and learn about the working of each other's political institutions and convey Members' views on issues of mutual concern.

This year marks the fifth exchange with a reunified Germany and a parliament consisting of members from all 16 German States. A delegation of staff members from the United States Congress will be chosen to visit Germany from May 7 to May 20. During the 2-week exchange, most time will be spent at meetings conducted by Bundestag Members, Bundestag party staff members, and representatives from political, business, academic, and media groups. Cultural activities and a weekend visit in a Bundestag Member's district will round out the exchange.

A comparable delegation of German staff members will visit the United States in July for a 3-week period. They will attend similar meetings here in Washington and visit the districts of Congressional Members over the Fourth of July recess.

The Congress-Bundestag Exchange is highly regarded in Germany, and is one of several exchange programs sponsored by public and private institutions in the United States and Germany to foster better understanding of the politics and policies of both countries.

The U.S. delegation should consist of experienced and accomplished Hill staff members who can contribute to the success of the exchange on both sides of the Atlantic. The Bundestag sends senior staff professionals to the United States. The United States endeavors to reciprocate.

Applicants should have a demonstrable interest in events in Europe. Applicants need not be working in the field of foreign affairs, although such a background can be helpful. The composite United States delegation should exhibit a range of expertise in issues of mutual concern in Germany and the United States such as, but not limited to, trade, security, the environment, health care, and other social policy issues.

In addition, U.S. participants are expected to help plan and implement the program for the Bundestag staff members when they visit the